

# Basic and Applied Decision Making in Cancer Control

## Background

Advances in cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and end-of-life care, coupled with advances in bioinformatics, have created a wide array of health care options and sources of medical information. Whereas previously it was generally accepted that the physician was the locus of medical decision making, this is no longer the case.

**More and more, health care decisions have become a collaborative effort among the provider, patient and patient's family.**

**How do patients and health care providers make critical health decisions?**

## Initiative goals

- To enhance understanding of human decision-making processes so that individuals can make more informed and satisfying choices regarding their health, health care, and quality of life
- To bridge the gap between basic research in judgment and decision making (JDM), and applied cancer control research by promoting interdisciplinary collaborations between basic JDM scientists and applied cancer control scientists
- To promote research that examines the cognitive and affective processes underlying decision making
- To promote basic and applied research that examines health-related numeracy – how people use, process, and attach meaning to health-related numeric information
- To promote research on basic decision-making processes involved in the initiation and long-term maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors that may reduce one's risk of cancer and other chronic diseases

## Initiative History

- *National Cancer Institute/Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Evidence Report/Technology Assessment: Impact of Cancer-Related Decision Aids* (2002)
- NCI visiting scientists (2003-2004): Ellen Peters, Ph.D., Decision Research (Eugene, OR); Kevin McCaul, Ph.D., North Dakota State University
- Federation of Behavioral, Psychological and Cognitive Sciences – NCI Meeting: Making Good Decisions Under Conditions of Uncertainty November 21, 2003, Washington, DC
- NCI Basic and Applied Decision Making in Cancer Control Meeting February 19–20, 2004, Washington, DC
- Special issue of *Health Psychology* (July 2005) devoted to basic and applied decision making in cancer control
- NCI Numeracy and Health: Basic and Applied Perspectives Meeting December 1–2, 2005, North Bethesda, MD
- NCI visiting scientist (2006–2007): Valerie Reyna, Ph.D., Cornell University

[biobehavioral.cancer.gov](http://biobehavioral.cancer.gov)

# Funding Opportunities in Decision Making at the National Cancer Institute

## Funding Opportunity Announcement: Decision Making in Cancer: Single-Event Decisions

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-203.html>; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-305.html>

## Funding Opportunity Announcement: Decision Making in Health: Behavior Maintenance

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-204.html>; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-337.html>

## Funding Opportunity Announcement: Research on Clinical Decision Making in Life-Threatening Illness

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-062.html>; <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-316.html>

## BBRB Decision Making Research Portfolio

### Interactive decision aid for BRCA ½ mutation carriers

R01CA082346  
Marc Schwartz, PhD/Georgetown University

### Computer education for breast cancer genetic testing

R01CA084770  
Michael Green, MD/Penn State University -  
Hershey Medical Center

### Identify and reduce cognitive biases of decision aids

R01CA087595  
Peter Ubel, MD/University of Michigan

### Early-stage breast cancer treatment decisions by women with physical disabilities

R21CA122130  
Lisa Iezzoni, MD/Massachusetts General Hospital

### Developing a measure of voluntary consent for protocol-based treatment decisions

R21CA118377  
Robert Nelson, MD, Ph.D/  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

### Biopsychosocial processes and treatment decision making

R21CA113220  
Terrance Albrecht, PhD/Wayne State University

### Adjuvant treatment decision making for lung cancer

R03CA115864  
Jamie Studts, PhD/University of Louisville

### Cancer decision tool symposium at the Society for Medical Decision Making Annual Meeting

R13CA117811  
Amber Barnato, MD/University of Pittsburgh

### Better decisions, better care: Theories of Medical Decision Making and Health (Society for Medical Decision Making)

R13CA126359  
Valerie Reyna, PhD/Cornell University

For more information about the Basic and Applied  
Decision Making in Cancer Control initiative contact:

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